

WO-303  
Bratten-Jones House  
Snow Hill  
Private

c. 1825, c. 1880

The Bratten-Jones house, also known as the Fehrer house, is a combination frame dwelling dating from two distinct periods. The front portion, largely dating to fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, may comprise an early nineteenth century core that was extensively remodeled around 1880. Attached to the back of the house is an early nineteenth century rear wing that suggests the earlier house on "Lot 54" was erected around 1825. Underpinned by a partially excavated foundation, the cellar under the main house contains a brick paved floor and an old hearth. These features, uncommon for the late nineteenth century, may date to the antebellum period. The rear wing is thought to have been part of the original house, and later moved around to its present location during the ownership of Augusta C. Bratten, which stretched from 1880 to 1903.

According to the memories of Mrs. J. Clifton Nock, granddaughter of Augusta C. Bratten, the house her grandparents purchased in 1880 was a much smaller story-and-a-half frame structure that they enlarged significantly to suit their family of six children. The earlier part of the house, now comprising the rear wing, is believed to date to the early nineteenth century and perhaps as early as 1825. Nine-over-nine sash windows and covered over beaded floor joists are suggestive elements that support the antebellum date.

Lots 54, 55, 56, and 57 were sold together from the estate settlement of William Bishop in March 1846. The transfer price of \$750 suggests that the four lots were improved in some manner albeit in a

modest way. Five years later David and Ann O. Richardson sold their interests in the four lots and improvements to John P. Robins for \$1,200. John P. Robins held the property for only two years when he transferred it to Samuel Johnson, Sr.(1795-1857) During the Johnson's occupancy, which lasted until Elizabeth Johnson's death in July 1880, the adjacent unimproved lots, numbers 55, 56, and 57, were sold. After the Brattens twenty three-year residency, the house and lot were sold to Louisa F. Jones for \$2,500. Louisa and her husband, Judge Robley D. Jones, occupied the house during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Although Judge Jones died in 1917, Jones family interest in the house was not sold until 1944. The current owners purchased the house in 1967.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: BRATTEN-JONES HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WO-303

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
AGRARIAN/INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION  
1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s):  
SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-303

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JUDGE ROBLEY D. JONES HOUSE, BRATTEN HOUSE

and/or common BRATTEN-JONES HOUSE, FEHRER HOUSE

## 2. Location

street & number 110 West Federal Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Fehrer

street & number 110 West Federal Street telephone no.:

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber FWH 222

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 356

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WO-303

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Judge Robley D. Jones house, more commonly called the Bratten house or the Fehrer house, stands at 110 West Federal Street in the center of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, five-bay frame dwelling faces southeast with the principal gable roof oriented on an northeast/southwest axis.

Consisting of two distinct sections, this two-and-a-half story center hall/double-pile main house dates to the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, while the rear two-story wing is significantly older, dating to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Supported by a raised common bond brick foundation, the main block contains a partially excavated cellar. A layer of aluminum siding covers the exterior, while the steeply pitched hip roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Standing behind the house is a small nineteenth century stable.

The southeast elevation of the circa 1880 front section is a symmetrical facade with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The heavily molded four-panel front door is framed by sidelights and a three-light transom. The flanking two-over-two sash windows are accompanied by louvered shutters. Stretching across the first floor is a chamfered post porch. The second floor is marked by five two-over-two sash windows also hung with louvered shutters. Centered on the south slope of the hip roof is a clipped gable pierced by a smaller two-over-two sash window. Rising through the center sections of the roof are interior brick chimneys finished with corbelled caps.

The southwest side elevation is also sheltered by the single-story porch. Two-over-two sash windows light the first and second floors. The porch does not extend around to the north side, but two-over-two sash windows light each floor.

Covering part of the northwest (rear) elevation is a two-story early nineteenth century wing that apparently dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. From a description of the structure during a 1970s renovation, the rear wing was originally a story-and-a-half structure later raised to a two-story height. Early nine-over-six nine sash windows survive on the first and second floors. Rising through the end of the wing is an interior brick chimney.

The interior of the main house is finished with a combination of late Victorian and classically-inspired woodwork. The rear wing, on the other hand, has been remodeled as a living room, but beaded floor joists were exposed during the renovation and later covered. The cellar of the main block is partially excavated and contains a brick paving and former hearth.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-303

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Bratten-Jones house, also known as the Fehrer house, is a combination frame dwelling dating from two distinct periods. The front portion, largely dating to fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, may comprise an early nineteenth century core that was extensively remodeled around 1880. Attached to the back of the house is an early nineteenth century rear wing that suggests the earlier house on "Lot 54" was erected around 1825. Underpinned by a partially excavated foundation, the cellar under the main house contains a brick paved floor and an old hearth. These features, uncommon for the late nineteenth century, may date to the antebellum period. The rear wing is thought to have been part of the original house, and later moved around to its present location during the ownership of Augusta C. Bratten, which stretched from 1880 to 1903.

According to the memories of Mrs. J. Clifton Nock, granddaughter of Augusta C. Bratten, the house her grandparents purchased in 1880 was a much smaller story-and-a-half frame structure that they enlarged significantly to suit their family of six children. The earlier part of the house, now comprising the rear wing, is believed to date to the early nineteenth century and perhaps as early as 1825. Nine-over-nine sash windows and covered over beaded floor joists are suggestive elements that support the antebellum date.

Lots 54, 55, 56, and 57 were sold together from the estate settlement of William Bishop in March 1846.(GMH 9/17) The transfer price of \$750 suggests that the four lots were improved in some manner albeit in a modest way. Five years later David and Ann O. Richardson sold their interests in the four lots and improvements to John P. Robins for \$1,200.(EDM 4/169) John P. Robins held the property for only two years when he transferred it to Samuel Johnson, Sr.(1795-1857)(EDM 5/359) During the Johnson's occupancy, which lasted until Elizabeth Johnson's death in July 1880, the adjacent unimproved lots, numbers 55, 56, and 57, were sold. After the Brattens twenty three-year residency, the house and lot were sold to Louisa F. Jones for \$2,500. (FHP 19/472) Louisa and her husband, Judge Robley D. Jones, occupied the house during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Although Judge Jones died in 1917, Jones family interest in the house was not sold until 1944. (JEB 20/390) The current owners purchased the house in 1967.(FWH 222/356)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-303

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant/Worcester Co. date 11/1/89

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438



PART I

HISTORY OF PROPERTY

at

110 W. Federal Street, Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland

Based on Research by

Joseph W. Fehrer, February 1976

Chronology of Property Transactions - - - - - Pages 1 to 4

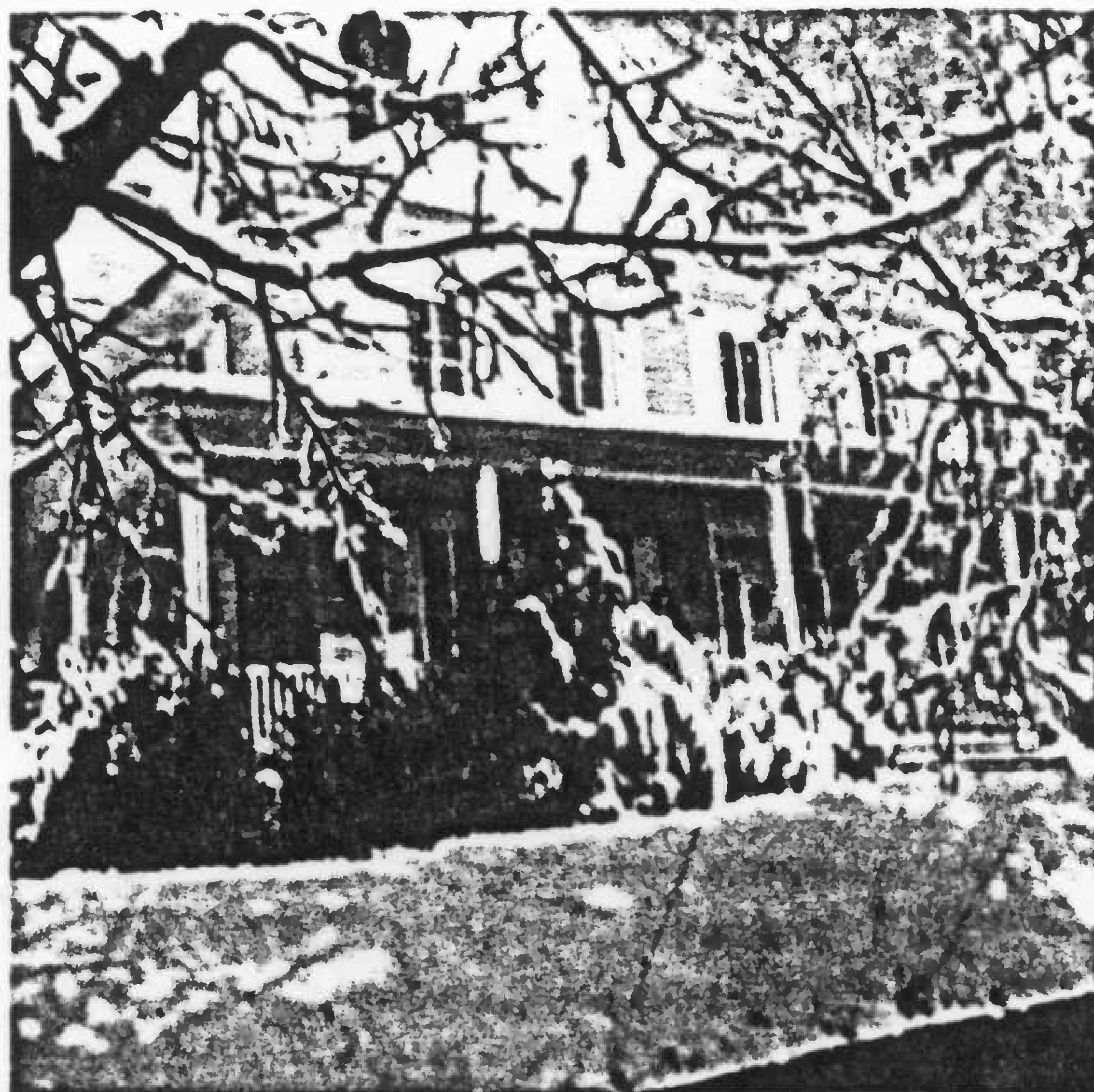
General Background, Evolvment of Structures, Stories - - - Pages 5 to 10

House Description and Layout During Occupancy by Jones  
(1903-1944) and by Fehrer (at present - 1976)- - - - - Pages 11-A & 11-B

Anecdotes - - - - - Pages 12 to 14

Alterations by Owners. Photographs. - - - - - Pages 15 to 18

Maps of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland - - - - - Pages 19 to 25



DEC 67



HISTORY  
110 W. Federal St.  
Snow Hill, Md.

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Chronology of Property Transactions

To : Joseph W. Fehrer and Ilia J. Fehrer, wife (Baltimore, Md.)  
From : Ridgely Browne Stooksbury (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : August 29, 1967  
Recorded: FWH 222/356, September 1, 1967  
Price : \$19,000.00  
Descr. : All that parcel of land lying and being situate on the north-  
westerly side of Federal Street in the Town of Snow Hill, in the  
Second Election District of Worcester County, Maryland, being  
bounded on the northeast by the property formerly of William S.  
Godfrey, on the northwest by The Presbyterian Church Cemetery  
property, on the southwest by the property of Lulu M. Mason,  
formerly of Lillian A. Mason, and on the southeast by Federal  
Street, aforesaid.

To : Ridgely Browne Stooksbury (Dorchester Co.)  
From : William H. Holloway and Elizabeth J. Holloway, wife (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : November 20, 1963  
Recorded: FWH 170/323, November 20, 1963  
Price : \$15,500.00  
Descr. : Same as above

To : William H. Holloway and Elizabeth J. Holloway, wife (Worcester Co.)  
From : Helen Moore Dennis 1/ and Samuel K. Dennis, husband (Baltimore, Md.) and  
Julia P. Winder 2/ and Richard B. Winder, husband (Montgomery Co.)  
Deed : October 7, 1950  
Recorded: CWN 36/265, October 16, 1950  
Price : \$8,000.00  
Descr. : - - bounded on the northeasterly side by the property of William S.  
Godfrey, on the southeasterly side by the said Federal Street, on  
the southwesterly side by the property of Lillian A. Mason and others,  
and on the northwesterly side by the property of the Committee of the  
Presbyterian Church in Snow Hill - -  
1/ : Devisee of Juliet T. Purnell  
2/ : Heiress of Emma J. Purnell, Mother

To : Emma J. Purnell, widow and Juliet T. Purnell, unmarried (Worcester Co.)  
From : Charles A. Townsend and Emily J. Townsend, wife (temporarily residing  
in Atlantic City, N. J.)  
Deed : July 21, 1944  
Recorded: JEB 20/390, July 25, 1944  
Price : \$5,727.00  
Descr. : - - same as above - - except so much thereof as the said Louisa F.  
Jones conveyed to The Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Snow  
Hill - - by deed dated August 29, 1925 - - and of record among the  
aforesaid Land Records in Liber ODC 51/482 - -

## HISTORY

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110 W. Federal St.  
Snow Hill, Md.

To : Charles A. Townsend and Emily Jones Townsend, wife (Philadelphia Co., Pa.)  
From : Lolita R. Smith, unmarried (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : December 23, 1941  
Recorded: JEB 10/361, December 23, 1941 (this is a "straw" deed)  
Price : \$10.00 and other valuable considerations - no stamps  
Descr. : The deed contains two items, the first of which pertains to the property at 110 W. Federal St.: 1. All that lot or parcel of land lying and being situate on the northwesterly side of Federal Street in the town of Snow Hill in Worcester County, in the State of Maryland, being bounded on the northeast by the property of William S. Godfrey, on the southeast by Federal Street, on the southwest by the property of Lillian A. Mason and others, and on the northwest by the property of The Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Snow Hill, in Worcester County - - . 2. - - other lands - -

To : Lolita R. Smith, unmarried (Worcester Co.)  
From : Emily J. Townsend and Charles A. Townsend, husband (Philadelphia Co., Pa.)  
Deed : December 22, 1941  
Recorded: JEB 10/360, December 23, 1941 (this is a "straw" deed)  
Price : \$10.00 and other valuable considerations - no stamps  
Descr. : Same as above

To : The Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Snow Hill in Worcester Co.  
From : Louisa F. Jones, widow (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : August 29, 1925  
Recorded: ODC 51/482, September 1, 1925  
Price : None specified - stamps \$1.00  
Descr. : - - part of lot owned by Louisa F. Jones in rear of residence of said Louisa F. Jones and on the southeasterly side of present cemetery of the Presbyterian Church in Snow Hill - - said part being about 116' by 165.8'.

To : Louisa F. Jones (Worcester Co.)  
From : Augusta C. Bratten (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : June 18, 1903  
Recorded: FHP 19/472, November 7, 1903  
Price : \$2,500.00  
Descr. : Lot 54, plat of Snow Hill - - together with improvements thereon

To : Augusta C. Bratten (Worcester Co.)  
From : John B. Timmons and Ann M. Timmons, wife (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : December 9, 1880  
Recorded: ITM 8/118, December 25, 1880  
Price : \$1,200.00  
Descr. : Lot 54, plat of Snow Hill - - recently occupied by Elizabeth Johnson in her lifetime - - (Born January 19, 1809, died July 31, 1880, 71 years, 6 months, 12 days.)

## HISTORY

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110 W. Federal St.  
Snow Hill, Md.

To : John B. Timmons (Worcester Co.)  
From : Ephraim K. Wilson and George W. Covington, Trustees (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : November 28, 1873  
Recorded: ITM 3/217, March 20, 1874  
Price : None specified for Lot 54  
Descr. : - - all that lot in the town of Snow Hill, fronting on Federal Street, with the improvements thereon, now occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, being the lot designated on the plat of said town as Lot 54, it being the object of these presents to convey unto the said Timmons the remainder in fee, in and to the two last mentioned pieces of property after the determination of the life estate of Elizabeth Johnson therein - - . This deed also included the Almshouse property on the east side of road from Snow Hill to Berlin, and a vacant lot on New Lane in the town of Snow Hill.

To : Ephraim K. Wilson and George W. Covington, Trustees, for benefit of the Johnson's creditors (Worcester Co.)  
From : Thomas J. Johnson and Samuel R. Johnson, individuals and partners trading under the firm and style of T. J. and S. R. Johnson (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : April 19, 1869  
Recorded: GHR 3/596, May 4, 1869  
Price : None specified  
Descr. : - - all the real and personal property belonging to them as partners or individuals, and all book accounts, bonds, notes, judgments, mortgages and other evidences of debts - - . (Presumably this included Lot 54 on Federal Street, Snow Hill.)

To : Samuel Johnson, Sr. (Worcester Co.)  
From : John P. Robins (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : June 1, 1853  
Recorded: EDM 5/359, June 24, 1853  
Price : \$1,100.00  
Descr. : - - lots in Snow Hill, as described in deed from David Richardson and wife to John T. Robins, dated October 4, 1851, duly recorded among the land records of Worcester County - - being designated on the plat of said town as Lots 54, 55, 56 and 57, together with all and singular the buildings, improvements - -

To : John P. Robins (Worcester Co.)  
From : David Richardson and Ann O. Richardson, wife (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : October 4, 1851  
Recorded: EDM 4/169, October 4, 1851  
Price : \$1,200.00  
Descr. : - - lots in Snow Hill - - 54, 55, 56 and 57 - - together with - - buildings, improvements - -

HISTORY

110 W. Federal St.  
Snow Hill, Md.

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To : David Richardson (Worcester Co.)  
From : James W. Bishop and Esther A. Bishop (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : March 17, 1846  
Recorded: GMH 9/17, March 17, 1846  
Price : \$750.00  
Descr. : - - lots in Snow Hill - - 54, 55, 56 and 57 - - together with the buildings and appurtenances - - descended to James W. Bishop and Esther A. Bishop from their father, William Bishop, late of Worcester County, deceased, being the only children and heirs at law of said William Bishop - - adjoins lot now owned and occupied by George R. Smith, Esquire, on the east - - . (William Bishop died without a will, David G. Odell was Executor of his estate, date of bond - April 11, 1837, date of inventory - April 12, 1837, distribution of accounts - September 18, 1838; these documents are in Hall of Records, Annapolis, and might contain a clue as to the person from whom William Bishop acquired lot 54.)

AT THIS WRITING, FEBRUARY 1976, PRIOR TRANSFERS ON LOT 54 COULD NOT BE FOUND.

WILLIAM BISHOP'S ACQUISITION OF LOTS 55, 56 AND 57 CAME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS:

To : William Bishop (Worcester Co.)  
From : Nancy Duer and Robert Duer (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : January 26, 1819  
Recorded: AJ 186, January 26, 1819  
Price : \$375.00  
Descr. : - - all that lot - - adjoining the Episcopal Church Lot and laying on the east side of the street running South East from said Church - - . (This can only be lot 57.)

To : William Bishop (Worcester Co.)  
From : John P. Duffield (Worcester Co.)  
Deed : September 9, 1818  
Recorded: AJ 23, September 12, 1818  
Price : \$355.00  
Descr. : - - lots 55 and 56 - - unimproved - -

# HISTORY

110 W. Federal St.  
Snow Hill, Md.

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## General Background, Evolvment of Structures, Stories

The property at 110 W. Federal Street is the southern half of Lot 54 as laid out for the town of Snow Hill on plat dated October 23, 1793, Joshua Mitchell, Surveyor, Worcester County. (See page 19.)

Present improvements consist of a two story, partial cellar and attic frame house, reportedly in substantially the same form as when remodelled in the early 1880's by George and Augusta C. Bratten.

SOURCE: Mrs. J. Clifton Nock, Snow Hill, Md., granddaughter of George and Augusta C. Bratten.

The house presumably embodies parts of an earlier frame structure predating 1851, believed to have been built by David and Ann O. Richardson.

SOURCE: Deed dated March 1846, recorded in GMH 9/17, from Bishop to Richardson - - Lots 54, 55, 56 and 57, together with the buildings and appurtenances - - .

Consideration: \$ 750.00

Deed dated October 4, 1851, recorded in EDM 4/169, from Richardson to Robins - - Lots 54, 55, 56 and 57, together with buildings and improvements.

Consideration: \$1,200.00

Deed dated June 1, 1853, recorded in EDM 5/359, from Robins to Johnson - - Lots 54, 55, 56 and 57, together with buildings and improvements. Consideration: \$1,100.00

Will of Samuel Johnson, Sr., dated February 24, 1857 and entered December 23, 1857, stated "I give and devise to my beloved wife during her natural life the house and lot in the town of Snow Hill which I purchased from Rev. John P. Robins, and from and after her death I give same house and lot to my nephew Samuel R. Johnson, in fee simple." Elizabeth Johnson, wife of Samuel Johnson, Sr., obviously lived in the house on Lot 54 until her death on July 31, 1880 (NOTE CAREFULLY NEXT THREE PARAGRAPHS).

Deed dated April 19, 1869, recorded in GHR 3/596, from Thomas J. Johnson and Samuel R. Johnson, individuals and partners trading under the firm and style of T. J. & S. R. Johnson, to Wilson and Covington, Trustees for the benefit of the Johnson's creditors - - all the real and personal property belonging to them as partners or individuals - - . (Under the terms of the will of Samuel Johnson, Sr., above, this property presumably included Lot 54.)

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Deed dated November 28, 1873, recorded in ITM 3/217, from Wilson and Covington, Trustees, to Timmons, covers Lot 54 - - "now occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson - - ."

Deed dated December 9, 1880, recorded in ITM 8/118, from Timmons to Bratten, covers Lot 54 - - "recently occupied by Elizabeth Johnson in her lifetime - - ."

Reportedly, the structure acquired by Bratten in 1880 was 1½ stories, frame, about half as wide as the present house and had a cellar. The present house is in substantially the same form as when remodelled by Bratten.

SOURCE: Mrs. J. Clifton Nook, Snow Hill, Md.

Quite possibly the kitchen extension was on the west side of the house at that time (see 1877 plat of Snow Hill). Quite possibly, too, the house acquired by Bratten was an enlargement by Johnson of a small house built by Richardson. (See page 25.)

REASONING: Richardson to Robins, 1851, ¼ lots and im-  
provements. - - - - - Consideration: \$ 1,200.00

Robins to Johnson, 1853, ¼ lots and improvements.  
- - - - - Consideration: \$ 1,100.00

Trustee's sale for benefit of Johnson's creditors.  
Wilson and Covington to Timmons, 1873, 1 lot (Lot 54)  
and improvements. - - - - - Consideration: \$ Unknown

Timmons to Bratten, 1880, 1 lot (Lot 54) and im-  
provements. - - - - - Consideration: \$ 1,200.00

Note that Johnson, in 1853, bought ¼ lots and improvements for \$1,100.00; 1 of these lots (Lot 54) and improvements were sold to Timmons twenty years later for perhaps \$1,100.00 or \$1,200.00, and sold by Timmons seven years later for \$1,200.00. During Johnson's occupancy the value of 1 lot (Lot 54) increased to the prior value of ¼ lots, presumably because of improvements made by Johnson to the house on Lot 54.

Structural modifications to the remodelling work done by Bratten include:

enlargement of 1st and 2d floor rooms, northeast corner, and construction of corner fireplace by Jones in the early 1900's,

addition of 1st floor powder room and 2d floor bath outside of north end of center halls in the main structure, conversion of dining room in northwest corner of main structure to kitchen, and removal of rear porch and outside storage room by Holloway in the 1950's, and

# HISTORY

110 W. Federal St.  
Snow Hill, Md.

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extension of 1st floor powder room to a full bathroom, conversion of original kitchen, 1st floor rear, to den, removal of partition between old bathroom and maid's room above original kitchen and conversion of these two rooms to bedroom, by Fehrer in 1967.

In the main structure of the present house bark covered oak logs and hand hewn beams support a large part of the first floor. The cellar has brick walls and floor, brick fireplace, and a brick shelf 45" above the floor - thought to be a sleeping platform for slaves.

SOURCE: Mrs. Emily Jones Townsend, Snow Hill, Md. Judge Robley D. Jones, father of Emily Jones, told her that slaves slept on the brick shelf. Judge Jones acquired the property in 1903 from Augusta C. Bratten.

When Bratten acquired the property in 1880 an old negro man, George, lived in the cellar. Bratten permitted him to continue living there. The negro was addicted to "laudanum." One day he was missed and believed drowned. Cannon shots were fired over the river in a futile attempt to bring his body to the surface. Several days later he was found in the loft of the shed in the back yard of the property.

SOURCE: The late Miss Margie Godfrey of Snow Hill, Md. and Mrs. J. Clifton Nock, Snow Hill, Md.

Framing of the 1st floor room at the rear of the house consists of heavy vertical and horizontal hand hewn timbers with mortise and tenon joints pegged with wood; small beaded beams supported the ceiling. These features were covered when remodelled by Fehrer in 1967. Beams supporting the floor of this room are hand hewn. Cross and bible door to east porch.

Chimneys from fireplaces in the two rooms on the west side of the main structure rise vertically to the second floor, then angle toward one another and join at the attic floor, from which point a single chimney angles about 60° westward to the roof, then extends vertically through the roof. The brickwork in the basement to support these fireplaces, and in the attic chimney, is massive.

Improvements on the property also include a separate shed in the back yard. The center and eastern sections of the shed also apparently predate 1851, and have the same heavy timber framing as the original kitchen at the rear of house. The western section of the shed was probably added by Jones in the early 1900's for storage of a "surrey with a fringe around the top." During Jones lifetime the center section ground level had a wood floor and was used for harness and feed; the top was a hay loft. Also, the east section had stalls (since removed) for a horse, donkey and cow. The roof was cedar shakes.

SOURCE: Information regarding use of shed was obtained from Mrs. Emily Jones Townsend. Some of the heavy framing, including pegged



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joints, is still visible; others have been covered as a result of remodelling by Fehrer in 1975. The wood floor in the center section ground level, which was in an advanced state of deterioration, was replaced with cement in 1974, at which time the eastern section, previously earth, was also cemented. At that time, too, the cedar shake roof was covered with asbestos shingles and windows were added to north and east sides, 1st floor, and the small original window in the loft was replaced with a larger one.

In the early 1900's a flower garden with earth walk bordered by bricks set on end, was laid out by Mrs. Louisa F. Jones, wife of Judge Robley D. Jones. Flowers included roses and violets.

SOURCE: Mrs. Emily Jones Townsend, Snow Hill, Md.

The brick walks in this garden were laid in 1974 by Fehrer; the roses were removed and replanted along the cemetery wall at the north end of lot, and dwarf fruit trees were planted in the five sections of garden divided by the brick walks.

The property acquired by Jones in 1903 included the entire Lot 54. By deed dated August 29, 1925, recorded in ODC 51/482, Mrs. Louisa F. Jones, widow, conveyed about one-half of the northerly end of the lot to the Presbyterian Church for extension of its cemetery. The portion conveyed to the church had been used by Jones for an orchard, vegetable garden and pasture for the horse, donkey and cow. A grape arbor extended from the porch on the east side of the original kitchen at the rear of the house to the orchard area.

SOURCE: Information regarding use of land was obtained from Mrs. Emily Jones Townsend.

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It is my feeling that the original structures on Lot 54 may have consisted of a one room house with sleeping loft (present den in rear of house) and a two section shed (or barn), both of which have similar construction features unlike other parts of the house, and that they were probably constructed between 1846 and 1851 by Richardson.

REASONING: Study of property transactions from 1818 to 1903 disclose the following:

Duffield to Bishop, 1818, Lots 55 and 56 (these remained vacant through 1877 - see map of Snow Hill, that date) - - - - - Consideration: \$ 355.00

Duer to Bishop, 1819, presumably Lot 57 (corner lot, no mention of improvements) - - Consideration: \$ 375.00

For above three lots Bishop paid a total of - - \$ 730.00

The source of conveyance to Bishop of Lot 54 cannot be found among the land records of Worcester County. William Bishop died without a will; it is possible that his property inventory dated 4-12-1837 and distribution of accounts dated 9-18-1838, filed in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, may contain a clue.

Bishop to Richardson, 1846, Lots 54, 55, 56 and 57, together with buildings and improvements. (The price paid by Richardson is so close to the total sum paid by Bishop for Lots 55, 56 and 57, it is assumed there were no improvements on the property - if there were they would have had to be very inconsequential.) - - - - - Consideration: \$ 750.00

Richardson to Robins, 1851, Lots 54, 55, 56 and 57, together with buildings and improvements (presumably Richardson put a structure on at least one of these lots - probably 54 - note, carefully, the following transactions. - - - - - Consideration: \$ 1,200.00

Robins to Johnson, 1853, Lots 54, 55, 56 and 57, together with buildings and improvements. - - - - -  
- - - - - Consideration: \$ 1,100.00

Will by Johnson, 1857, gave to his wife, Elizabeth, and after her death to his nephew Samuel R. Johnson, the house and lot purchased from Robins.

Johnsons to Wilson and Covington, Trustees, 1869, all real and personal property, obviously including Lot 54, as can be seen from the next conveyance.

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Wilson and Covington, Trustees, to Timmons, 1873,  
Lot 54, with improvements, "now occupied by Mrs.  
Elizabeth Johnson" - - - - - Consideration: \$ Not specified

Timmons to Bratten, 1880, Lot 54, with improve-  
ments, "recently occupied by Elizabeth Johnson in  
her lifetime." Elizabeth Johnson died in 1880.  
- - - - - Consideration: \$ 1,200.00

During Johnson's occupancy there was obviously  
a cellar under the front part of house - see comment  
on page 7 about negro man living in cellar when  
Bratten bought the property.

Bratten to Jones, 1903, Lot 54, with improve-  
ments. - - - - - Consideration: \$ 2,500.00

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House Description and Layout During Occupancy by Jones (1903-1944)  
and by Fehrer (at present - 1976)

Occupancy by Jones was the longest in the history of the house to date. By the grace of God the Fehrer occupancy may also be a long one.

The interests and lives of both Jones and Fehrer indicate that they loved the house and community in which they lived. Both had many friends and entertained according to their means. Both worked diligently for what they believed in.

The Jones life was characterized by a form of graciousness and period of change that may never again be seen. It ran through an era of horse drawn carriages to automobiles, from trains and steamboats to airplanes and busses, from classical music to jazz, from phonographs to radios, from movies to television, from straw fans to air conditioners, from wood stoves to electric ranges, from hand stoked furnaces to thermostatically controlled heat, from literary classics to paperbacks, from home grown flowers to plastic imitations, from family togetherness to individual independence.

Two world wars occurred in this era, and there was a change in people's attitudes from contentment to unrest.

It is important that the house and property as it existed during the Jones occupancy be accurately described and that some anecdotes of life during that time be given.

The Fehrer's have made a mark on the community since their arrival in September 1967. Consequently it is appropriate that articles about some of their interests and activities be made a part of this history. These will be found in PART II of this history.

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### Anecdotes

#### Jones

Judge Jones enlarged the 1st floor room in the NE corner of the main house and added a fireplace, for his library and office. He had a door installed between the library and the porch on the east side of the house - he called this the "dog door." Judge Jones was an enthusiastic hunter, often bringing home quail, ducks and geese after a day in the field. Upon returning home after hunting he would take his dogs, of which he was very fond, into the library and make a fire so they could rest in warmth. Mrs. Jones would not permit the dogs anywhere else in the house.

The second floor bedroom arrangement was: SW corner - Mother's room; NW corner - Father's room; small room over collonade - Emily's room; the two rooms on the east side of center hall were for guests and often occupied. The maid's room over the old kitchen was an "in case" room - in case they needed another room for guests. It was only used by the maids and cook for changing clothes.

When the fireplaces were cleaned by inserting corn shocks in the flue and setting them on fire - which made a roaring sound - Emily would always take a walk, fearing that the house would burn down!

Firewood was kept piled in the collonade between the exterior door and the dining room. Once Emily was walking through the collonade at night and stepped on a snake that had been accidentally brought in with the wood!

In Emily's music room was a baby grand piano, which she still has. She was permitted to decorate the music room and had benches put in front of and extending from the fireplace - the bench cushions were covered in a beautiful brown material.

Mrs. Jones had the same cook for 47 years - Lou Selby, who lived in a small house - now demolished - several blocks away on Snow Street (opposite the present elementary school grounds). \* - see note on page 13-B.

Emily occasionally accompanied her father to the court house. Someone once asked him if he had a house full of children. He replied "I sure do - and there she is!"

The cellar has a brick floor and walls, a brick fireplace and a brick shelf about 45" above the floor. Judge Jones told Emily that slaves slept on the brick shelf. (This may have been entirely probable. A William Bishop once owned lot 54 and upon his death in 1837 it descended to his children, James W. Bishop and Esther A. Bishop. In examining property transfers the writer came upon a sale from Purnell Bishop to William Bishop on September 18, 1807, of a negro boy slave named George, age about seven years, for the sum of \$80.00. Could it be that this slave was passed on to succeeding owners and was the old negro man named George living in the cellar when the property was purchased by Bratten in 1880? See page 7.)

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Emily Jones had a cat which would disappear in the basement and reappear outside - obviously through a hole in that part of the foundation hidden under the porch. (The Fehrer's have a cat that does the same thing!)

The cement sidewalk in the 100 block of Federal Street was laid in the early 1900's. It was welcomed by the neighborhood children who enjoyed it for skating. (It is still used for the same purpose!)

At the bottom of the front steps and at the edge of the street in a circular area was a beautiful maple tree - long since gone.

The shed in the back yard was enlarged by Judge Jones to accommodate his two seat surrey with a fringe around the top. The Judge enjoyed a relaxing ride in the surrey after his work in court. On occasion he would take his daughter Emily and her friends for an outing to Public Landing or to his farm near the bay - there was much merriment on these rides. Judge Jones usually walked his horse to avoid overheating him.

A flower garden with earth walks bordered with bricks was laid out by Mrs. Jones just off the north end of the east porch; a grape arbor extended from the north end of the east porch to the rear half of the lot.

The rear half of the lot was used as a pasture for their horse, cow and donkey - the donkey was Emily's. In this part of the property was a vegetable garden - corn, lima beans, tomatoes and asparagus were among the vegetables grown here. Mrs. Jones enjoyed the fresh milk and rich cream provided by the cow. Chickens were kept in a shed in the yard to the west of the house.

Sitting on the front porch one summer evening, Emily's Mother reflected "We have a horse, a cow, a donkey, chickens, ducks, dogs, cats - and we'd have pigs too if it wasn't against the law!"

When Emily was 15 years old she left Snow Hill to go to school at Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. She returned to Snow Hill for visits but not to live. During one of her visits in 1925 her Mother told her that the Presbyterian Church wanted to buy half the lot for expansion of its cemetery. Emily said she surprised her Mother by saying she thought that was just fine as all of their pets would then be buried in a real cemetery! The rear half of their lot had also been used as a burial place for their pets.

Judge Jones sometimes hunted on his farm along Chincoteague Bay in the vicinity of Scott's Landing. One day he found a large Indian stone mortar and pestle, which Emily still has.

Judge Robley D. Jones and his wife, Louisa F. Jones, are buried in the Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Snow Hill.



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Inscriptions on the tombs of Judge Jones and his wife read as follows:

ROBLEY D. JONES  
Associate Judge 1st District  
1908 - 1917  
"He Is Passed From Death Unto Life"  
December 31, 1860 - July 7, 1917

LOUISA RICHARDSON FRANKLIN  
Wife of Robley D. Jones  
Daughter of Sarah C. and Littleton P. Franklin  
August 1, 1869 - April 2, 1940

- \* - Emily Townsend added that Lou Selby's husband Will, was not always sober. Will Selby also worked for Mrs. Jones. They had another worker, Raphael Armstrong, who was a fine, dependable, hard working gentlemanly person.



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### Holloway

As a young man Bill Holloway lived in Newark. He delivered hay by wagon to Judge Jones, storing it in the shed loft. The round trip took an entire day. He found it a pleasant task as he always enjoyed seeing "Miss Emily - the prettiest girl I'd ever seen." On hot days she would bring him a cool drink, a little act of kindness he never forgot. Bill would look at the house and wish that he could live there some day. The wish became a reality when Bill and his wife bought the property in 1950. The two fir trees in the back yard east of the shed were planted by their grandsons - one by Bill and one by Henry.

### Fehrer

This is a beautiful home and from what we have learned from those who visited and/or lived here since the late 1800's it was filled with happiness, love and caring. If the walls could but speak what stories could be told! The garden too, shows thought, care and appreciation.

Merriment and sadness were found here - many visitors - holiday dinners - music - laughter - parties - dancing - carriage rides - the death of loved ones - property changing hands - remodelling.

What does the future hold? Tastes differ - needs dictate change. Will the house ever revert to the graciousness of the Jones era or will it continue to be altered to keep abreast of modern times?

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Alterations by owners. Photographs.

Bratten, 1880-1903

Mrs. J. Clifton Nock, granddaughter of owner, informed the writer that she understands that when Bratten acquired the property the house was a 1½ story structure and only about half as wide as the present house. During their occupancy the Brattens enlarged the house to better accommodate their large family - three sons and three daughters.

The house was enlarged to substantially its present configuration except that the main structure (front) was rectangular, with porches along the south (front) and west sides. It is believed that central heating was installed in the main structure during the Brattens occupancy.

Jones, 1903-1944

Enlarged 1st and 2d floor rooms, northeast corner, built fireplace. Laid out flower garden with earth walks bordered with bricks - outside of northeast end of house. Enlarged two section and loft shed by adding another section on west end. Street was paved and cement sidewalk laid about 1912.

Holloway, 1950-1963

Changed original dining room to kitchen, removing fireplace and high windows. Installed powder room at north end of 1st floor hall, leaving original outside door as entrance to powder room, removed window over basement stairs (the window was in the wall behind the present toilet). Installed bathroom at north end of hall, 2d floor. Removed door and frame from entrance to music room (SE corner), 1st floor, widened entrance and left it open; removed mantle and fireplace from music room. Removed wood house from rear of house; removed porch and storage room from north side of original kitchen. Put asbestos shingle roofing over original wood shingles. Relocated sink from original bathroom above old kitchen to collonade. Installed new plumbing, wiring, heating, hardwood floors, waterpipe to main line, new sewer pipe, ~~hardwood floors~~, venetian blinds.

Stooksbury, 1963-1967

Removed wallpaper, replastered and installed wallboards. Repainted interior except 1st and 2d floor rooms, rear. Removed doors between bedrooms on east and west sides of main structure and closed the openings, installed closets in the four bedrooms in main structure. Removed east window from living room (SE corner), 1st floor.

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Fehrer, 1967-present

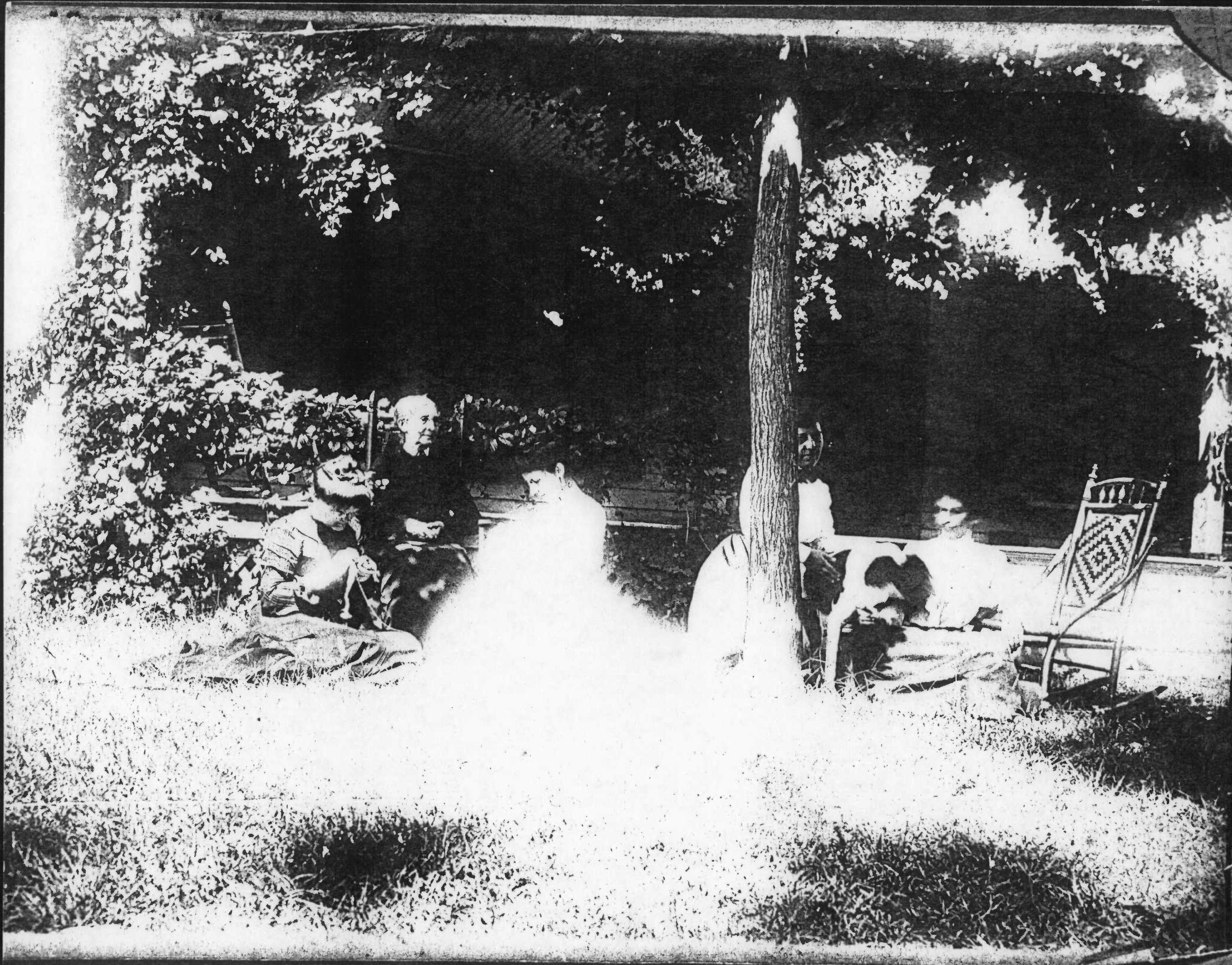
1967-68: Converted original kitchen in rear of house to a family room - wood panelling and electric heat was installed. Removed partition between bath and maid's room on 2d floor rear - refinished as a bedroom in same style as others - installed electric heat and laid linoleum floor. Installed shower in 2d floor bathroom and tiled walls around tub. Converted powder room on 1st floor to a full bath, including shower, constructed linen closet over toilet, installed electric heat. Constructed large closet in 1st floor room, NE corner. Changed pantry (collonade) into laundry, converted window to closet and installed electric heat. Insulated attic, installed aluminum screens and storm windows throughout. Carpeted three rooms and halls, 1st floor, stairs to 2d floor, and 2d floor halls. Put in cement walk connecting rear of west porch with rear of east porch. Braced shed, put new walls on east and north sides, installed window on north side of center section of shed, 1st floor, repainted shed. Painted some of the cellar walls and ceiling.

1970: Painted exterior of house.

1975: Covered house with aluminum siding. Installed shelving in cellar. Remodelled interior of shed, installed wood panelling in loft, utility board ceilings in loft and east section, peg board panelling 1st floor, put larger window in loft, new windows on 1st floor in north end of center section and east side of east section, cemented floor in center section and east end, put framing around exterior of all doors, installed shelving in center section and west section, put slag in front of south side of shed. Laid brick walk in old flower garden on east side rear of house. Covered original wood shingle roof of shed with asphalt shingles.

1976: Reroofed main house with asphalt shingles.







100 W. Federal St., Snow Hill, Md.  
about 1900!

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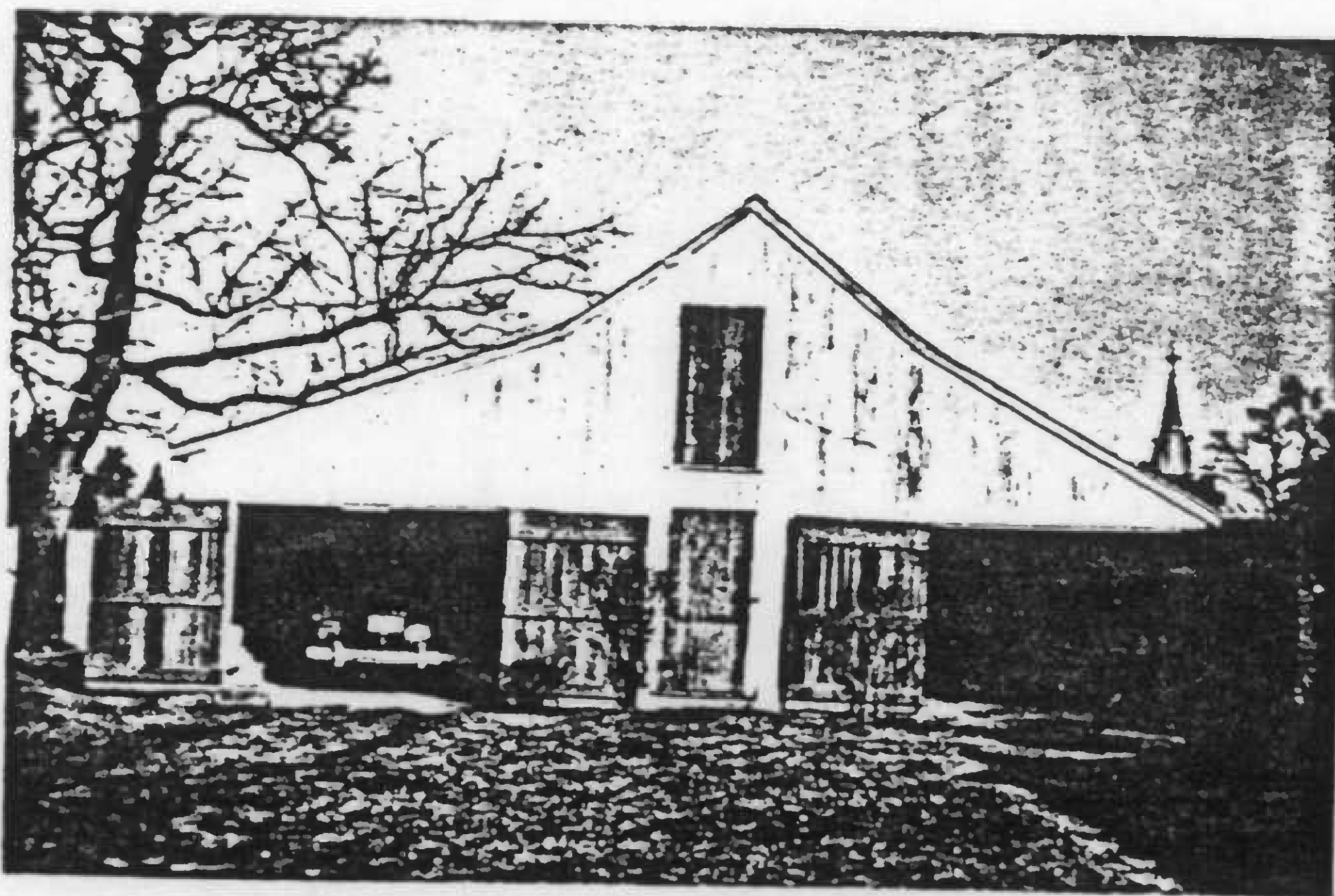
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110 W Federal St. Snow Hill

Photographs by William H. Holloway of house and shed - about 1950.

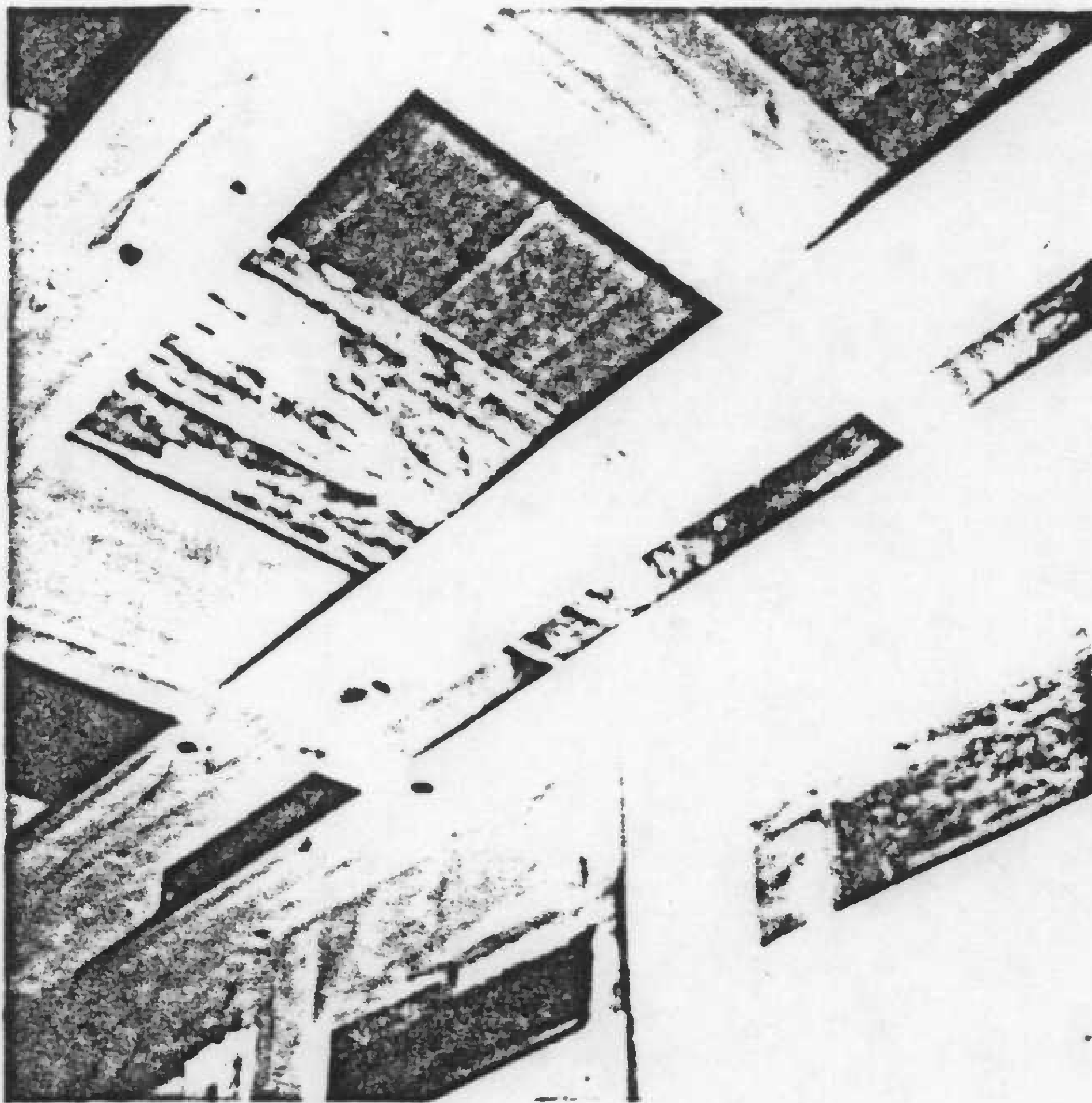




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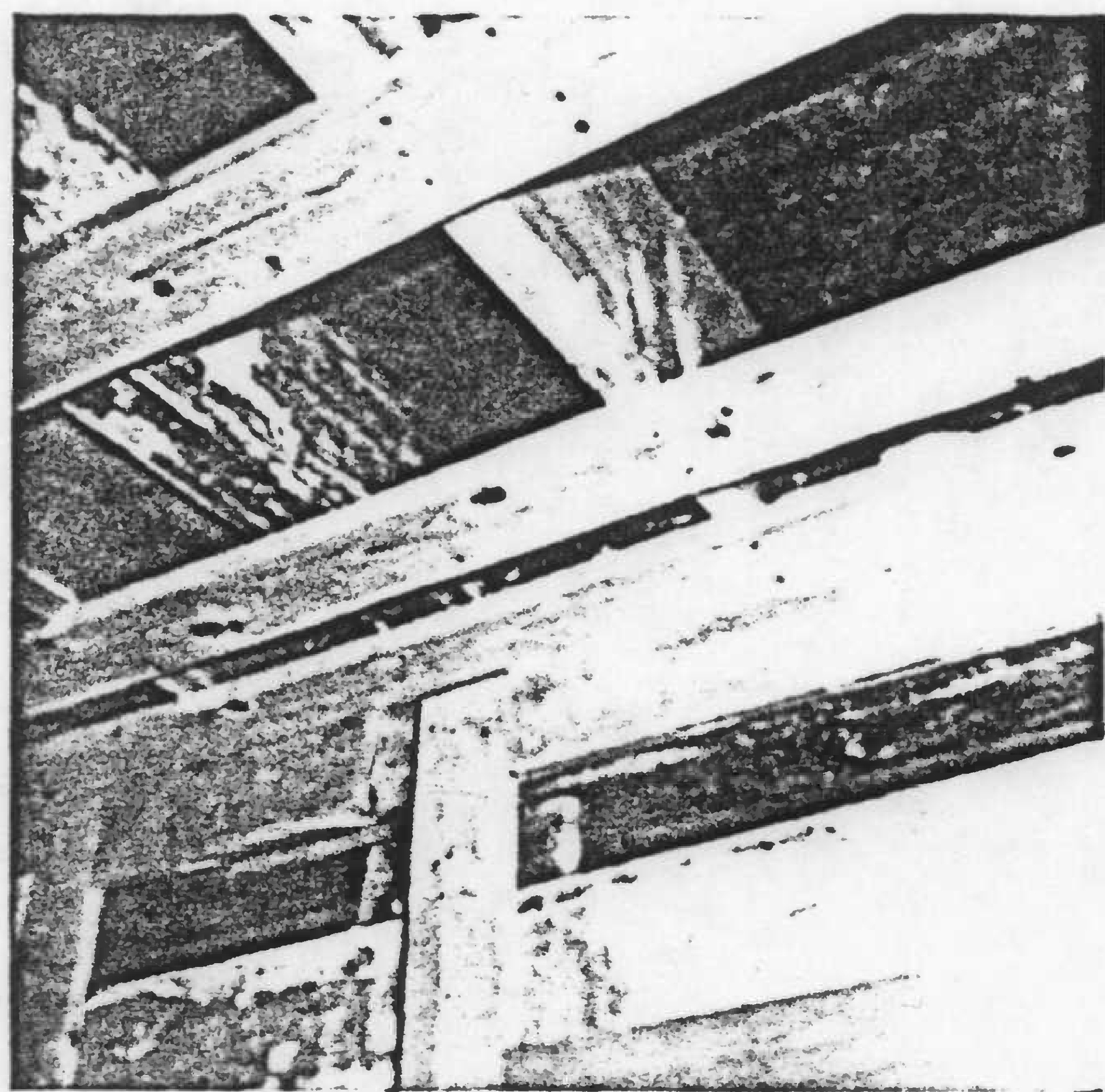
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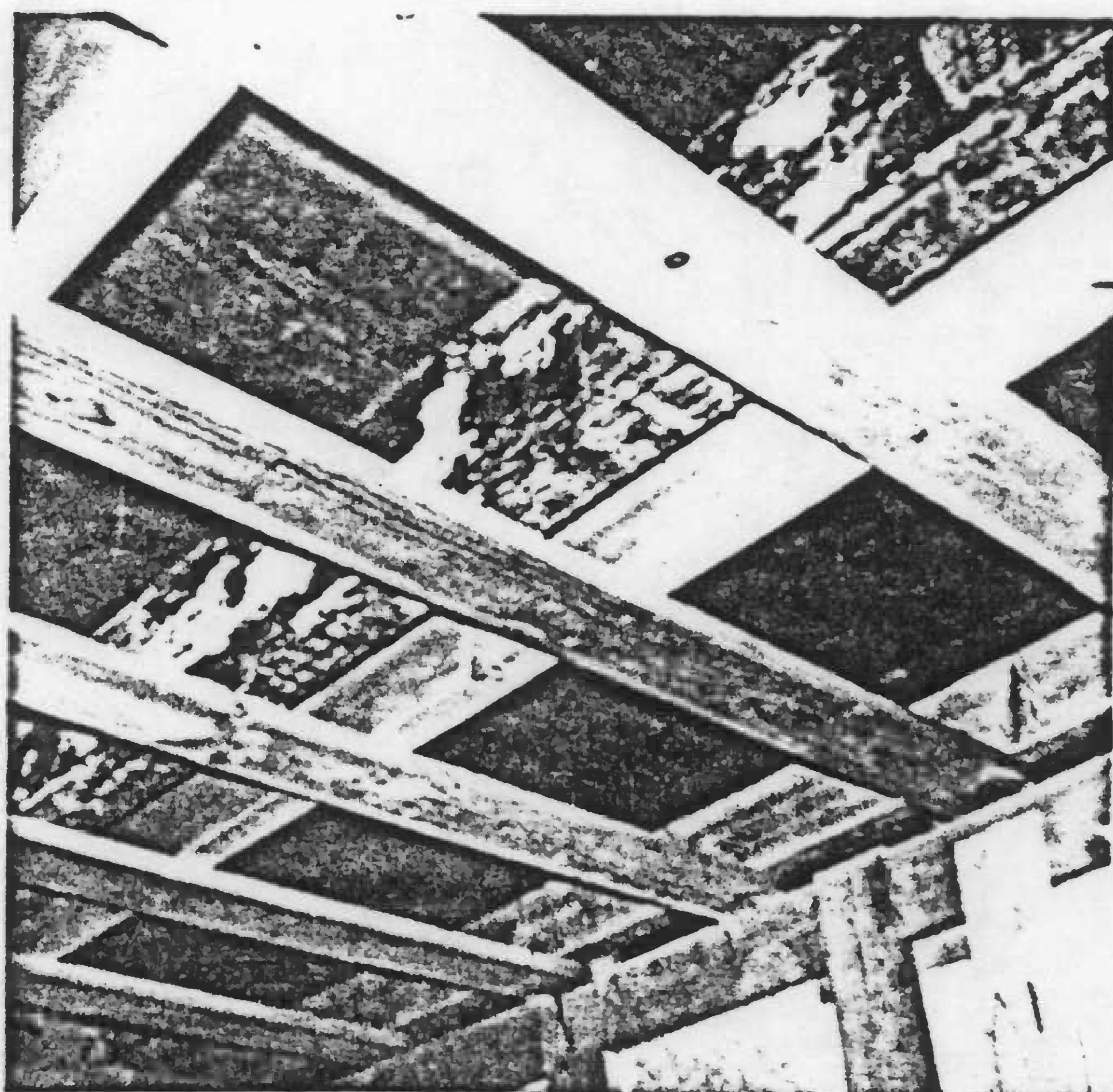
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1967 photographs of beaded ceiling beams and vertical and horizontal members in original kitchen - northernmost room, 1st floor; and enlargement of powder room to full bath - 1st floor.



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NOV



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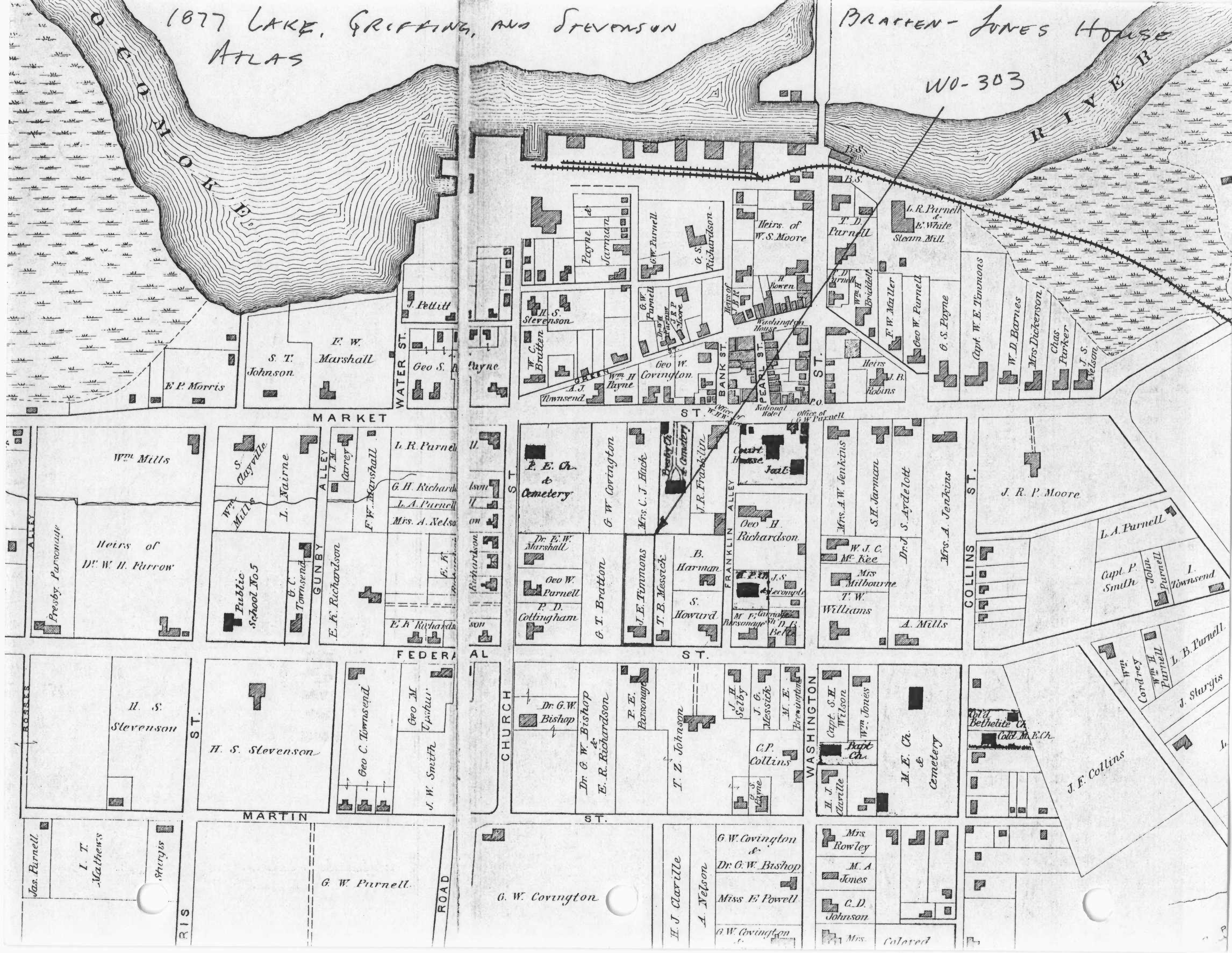
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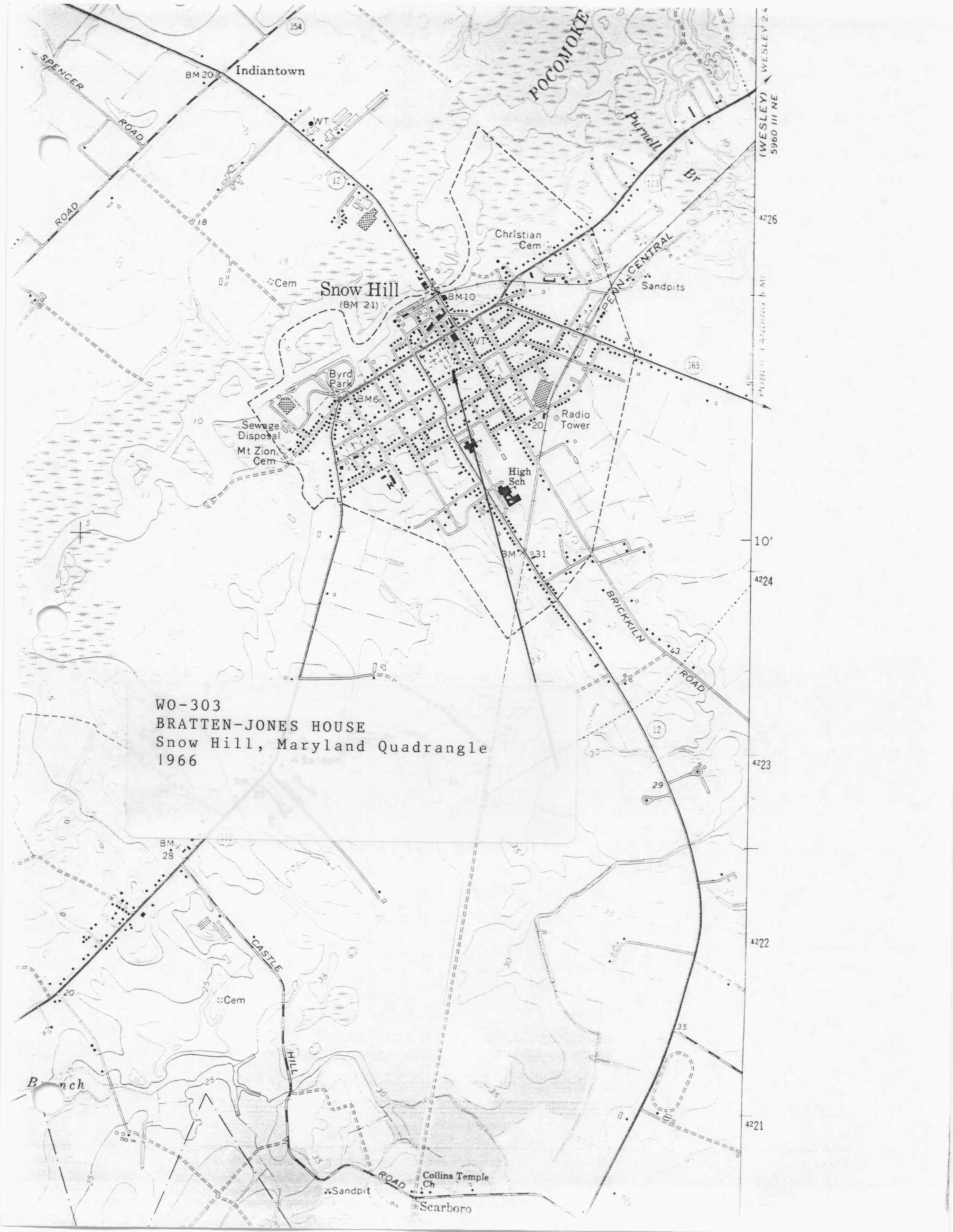
1877 LAKE, GRIPPING, AND STEVENSON  
ATLAS

BRATTEN-JONES HOUSE

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BRATTEN-JONES HOUSE  
Snow Hill, Maryland Quadrangle  
1966